

So What IS the Gospel? Are You Sure You Know?

Anthony Buzzard, 2019 Theological Conference

Let's tell the story, the narrative. Not the fake news.

God's Gospel (Mark 1:14-15) 8 Times (Mk 1:14; Rom 1:1; 16: I Thess. 2:2, 2:8, 2:9; 2 Cor. 11:7; I Pet. 4:15, Jesus, Paul and Peter) **of the Kingdom:** Gospel: **OPERATION KING and QUEEN MAKER.** Adam failed and Adam succeeds. A to Z. From disaster to destiny in the Kingdom.

Hosea 5:15- 6:3 Sun rises. The repeated pattern of failure and restoration

From **DUST TO KINGSHIP.** 1 Kings 16:2: "I exalted you from the dust and made you leader over my people Israel." 77 times the dead are said to be sleeping in the dust and resurrection of dead persons to kingship is the only solution to death. The only way to recovery of consciousness.

This encapsulates God's program and activity in Christ, who is the second Adam, and Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant — not just copying Moses in the letter but bringing the words of the New Covenant in the spirit.

"The Law was given by Moses; grace and truth came by Jesus" (John 1:17)

Water and wine, old cloth and new cloth.

The Devil hates the New Covenant brought by the words/Gospel as Jesus preached it from the beginning (Luke 16:16 Mark 1:1-2, 14-15)

Luke 16:16 is the great shift of the eras. The greatest man and greater than the prophets was John the Baptist. Yet the life of the Kingdom person is greater. As George Ladd says: "For Jesus society is divided into two antithetical classes: those who hear and receive the Word of the Kingdom and those who either do not know it or reject it."

The Kingdom is the **organizing center** of all Jesus taught.

The phrase **Gospel of the Kingdom** is absent everywhere.

The Kingdom is the Key to Knowledge (cp. Isa 55:11).

Thus I Corinthians 9:20 is a critical and neglected key to right understanding. And we are to be made right by the Messiah's knowledge (Isa 55:3; NIV ruins it).

Dust you are and to dust you will return, and resurrection is your only way of existing in the future — in the glory of kingship and the restoration of Adam to God's intention for man in Christ. God's intention for Adam was to be vice-regent for God and in Jesus this purpose is being fulfilled and will be fulfilled.

Daniel 12:2: Many of those now sleeping in the dusty earth will wake up, some to the **Life of the coming Age** (ruined by vague translation "eternal life").

John 1:1 — the curse of the capital. "The Word was with God." In the word was life and light and "immortality comes to light and life in the Gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10), truth, Kingdom covenant (Luke 22:29). Abrahamic, Davidic and Jesuanic covenant, words of Jesus as the new Moses of the spirit.

The goal: Jeremiah 27:5 and Isaiah 32:1, and Luke 22:28-30. The English translations often hide the "**covenant**" word.

The Current Problem to be Corrected by Activist Abrahamics

The author of a series of explanatory sermons on "Essential Christianity" asked astutely in 1894, THE question: He puts his finger on the disaster which happened to God's king-making project.

"Have you seriously pondered the fact that Jesus Christ **was always preaching 'the Kingdom of God,'**" and that in the model prayer which he gave us, he taught us to pray always that his **Kingdom** might come (Matt. 6:10)? In the present day men are always talking about the 'Church'...In view of this modern practice, is it not startling to be reminded that in the model prayer there is no reference at all to the 'Church,' whilst the reference to the 'Kingdom' is prominent and pronounced...? So far as

the record goes, Christ referred to the Church only twice...On the other hand, he speaks of the Kingdom not less than one hundred and twelve times.”

The same author went on to point out that:

“One of the most mischievous and fatal mistakes ever made in Christian history was the mistake of St. Augustine, who identified the Kingdom of God with the Church...But the Church is no more the Kingdom of God than the British army is the British Empire. It is high time for all Christians to ponder the long-lost teaching of Christ with respect to the Kingdom of God.”¹

John MacArthur rightly says, “**I am convinced that our lack of clarity on the most basic matter of all — the Gospel — is the greatest detriment to the work of the church in our day.”²**

I would say that this remains a serious problem for current Abrahamics.

And I add that in Billy Graham’s book on *How to Be Born Again*, there is not a word about the **Gospel of the Kingdom** and the parable of the sower, the parable which Jesus said was the one parable we cannot afford not to understand, for fear of not being able to understand any of the parables (Mark 4:13).

Billy Graham says that Jesus came to do 3 days work. Compare “Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate.”

Missiologist Mortimer Arias says: “We seem to be faced with **an eclipse of the Kingdom of God** from the apostolic age to the present particularly in our theology of evangelism. The Kingdom of God is God’s own dream, His project for the world and for humanity. He makes us dreamers and He wants us to be seduced by his dream. It is not we who dream but God who dreams in us.

“When I left the seminary **I had no clear idea of the Kingdom of God** and I had no place in my theology for the Parousia (Second Coming). I had no concerns about the future. Thousands of books are printed and circulated every year on evangelization, most of these fall into the category of ‘how to’ manuals for churches (devising plans, strategies, methodologies, goals)... **Our traditional mini-theologies — ‘the plan of salvation,’ ‘four spiritual laws’ — do not do justice to the whole Gospel.** Not all this activity or activism is a sign of health or creativity. The Good News of the Kingdom is not the usual way we describe the Gospel and evangelization. The Kingdom of God has practically disappeared from evangelistic preaching and has been ignored by traditional evangelism.

“The evangelistic message has been centered in personal salvation, individual conversion, and incorporation into the church. **The Kingdom of God** as a parameter or perspective or content of the Gospel has been virtually absent. Those interested in evangelism have not yet been interested in the Kingdom of God. Why not try Jesus’ own definition of his mission — and ours? For Jesus evangelism was no more and no less than announcing the Kingdom of God.”³

The Mormons say that the Kingdom of God on earth is the Mormon church **now**. That makes the Gospel of the Kingdom disappear.

Origen said that Jesus is the “Self-Kingdom.” Thus the Kingdom disappeared behind the name **Jesus**. If we say Victoria “was” the British Empire we are not misled, but by Origen people are easily taken in. He was the author too of the “eternal generation” of the Son who according to that system had a “beginningless beginning.”

Note how important **SOWING** is. “In Jewish sources sowing is used of God’s giving of life and of his renewal of the life His people and of the giving of the Torah, law, [and covenant] and the fruit it must bear. The parable of Jesus about the sower builds on this background and expresses Jesus’ confidence in the great potency of the renewal that is being worked out through his ministry [Luke 4:43]. In relaxed confidence Jesus sows generously, assured of an extravagant fruitfulness no matter

¹ Hugh Price Hughes, M.A., *Essential Christianity*, pp. 57-59, emphasis added.

² *Gospel According to Jesus* p. xvi.

³ *Announcing the Reign of God*, 1984

how much of the field receives the sowing in vain. The question to each individual in the crowds is: ‘In which soil do you find imaged your own engagement with the renewal set off by Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom of God Gospel?’⁴

Word Biblical Commentary on Jeremiah 5:26-31:

“Even the spiritual leaders of the people had been corrupted by the ethos of the age. The prophets, whose responsibility it was to declare God’s word to the people, prophesied falsely; instead of speaking the divine word, they proclaimed their own words, offering comfort to the oppressors and disillusionment to the oppressed. The prophets no doubt benefited financially from their falseness, in being rewarded by those who desire to hear no uncomfortable message.

“But the proclamation of falsehood by the prophets was a further terrible evil; when the word of prophecy had become falsehood, who any longer knew the truth? Indeed, the task of one like Jeremiah must have been infinitely more difficult in the time when false prophets proliferated; how was he to establish that his word was the truth and the majority of his colleagues were saying something entirely different? Not only the prophets but also the priest had failed and the tasks. He continued no doubt to fulfill their formal functions in worship, but they made a mockery of their own activities by condoning evil. And their role of teaching the true faith must have been abandoned because all along they knew the truth in their own lives. But what’s worse than the failure of prophet and priest was the miserable state of affairs into which the nation sunk. Evil had become a daily diet. There was great consolation in not being reproved by a prophet or approached by a priest. And yet, the message ends on an ominous note, not developed in any detail, yet pregnant with the threat of judgment. What will you do when it ends? (Verse 31). When the era of evil finally terminated and judgment came an entire nation we discover this.”

Now let us hear the words of Jesus, as corrective to popular understanding. **Mark 4:11-12** makes the astonishing assertion that repentance **depends on an intelligent understanding of the Gospel of the Kingdom**. This is exactly a repeat of Mark’s opening statement about “the beginning of the Gospel of God about the Kingdom of God” (Mark 1:1, 14, 15= Luke 16:16), and Jesus’ opening words that we are “**to repent and believe in that gospel of the Kingdom of God.**”

The command to repent is not a vague instruction to give up whatever we conceive as evil. Rather it is a command to understand and join God’s king-making restoration program/project in Messiah Jesus, the reversal of the catastrophe which happened in Adam. This gets at the mind and agenda of Jesus.

We are invited to be the privileged but servant group, the insiders who know what is going on, and to find our destiny as co-rulers with Jesus in the coming Kingdom — the Kingdom of Daniel 2:44; 7:18, 22 27. We are being trained to run the world with Jesus, but not yet.

This is vastly different from *being a good chap so that at the moment we die we go into the sky to play a harp forever as a disembodied soul*. The popular notion so widespread in church is a travesty of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Abrahamic people in the 1850’s, I think, did not fully realize the vastness and hugeness of what they were allowed to rediscover by a plain reading of Scripture in its Messianic sense. With the huge availability now of information we ought to be able to do much better than they! (See Wiley Jones, *The Gospel of the Kingdom* free at our site.)

Luke 8:11-12 is a blockbuster, high tension, high-powered verse in the same **parable of the sower**. Jesus is with the seed of the Kingdom planting the royal family of the coming renewal of the Kingdom of God on earth at the future restoration of all things (Acts 3:21; 1:6). **Luke 8:12** (think immediately also of **Acts 8:12**, the slogan text of the first Abrahamics) sums up the Bible story. When anyone is exposed to the Gospel about the Kingdom, the Devil is ready to snatch the Kingdom of God

⁴ Word Biblical Commentary on Luke, page 376

Gospel word from his heart (MIND) so that he cannot believe it and be saved! Yet in scores of tracts offering salvation, you will hear not a word about the Gospel of the Kingdom. This should alarm us and get us going into action.

The word of the Gospel and the covenant

Deut. 33:9 "For they observed Your word, And kept Your covenant."

1 Chr. 11:3 "So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD through Samuel."

1 Chr. 16:15 "Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations."

Ps. 105:8 "He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations."

"As for the Kingdom of God, we believe all of Jesus' teachings regarding the future kingdom were relevant and are important to Christians today. However, whether or not a full understanding of the Kingdom of God **is central to salvation** is another matter. Romans 10:9-10 tells us that in order to be saved, we must confess Jesus as our Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead. This by no means discounts anything Jesus taught as important, it simply means that the matter of salvation is about confession and belief in the resurrection."

This is a typical muddle pitting Paul against Jesus. Paul also said that they cannot hear without a preacher and that the hearers must not just hear of/about Jesus, but hear him preach, i.e. preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.. Note the crime scene.

You cannot confess Jesus without confessing what Jesus said about being saved! Luke 8:11-12. "By his **knowledge** my righteous servant will make many right" (Isa. 53:11).

Turmoil. The situation we are facing.

No such thing as a Christian without a ministry.

The pattern of God's activity.

The late Kent Ross urged us year-by-year (for many of the past 28 years) to concentrate our efforts on the fascinating verse from Jude, the half brother of Jesus when he urged us all to contend earnestly and struggle "**for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints**" (**Jude 3**). It is my strong impression that the faith is currently under attack. Did not Paul warn that "evil men would get worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived?" At present, this is happening in an unprecedented way.

The Bible is a book of imperatives, commands, often very simple ones like "pray always." "Rejoice" and "don't judge." I want now to give you some amazing quotations from sites claiming to be speaking in the name of Jesus and on the authority of the Bible, which in fact eradicate huge sections of the Bible in the name of Jesus.

I'm referring to what is called "dispensationalism." Its operational basis and platform is that we should **not believe as Gospel the Gospel which was preached by Jesus**. From Don Samdahl, Masters from Dallas Theological Seminary, come these words.

"There is no gospel in the Gospels. That might seem shocking but it is true." (doctrine.org)

I suggest to you that if you visit one of the thousands of sites claiming to have the Gospel you will find almost none defining the Gospel as the Gospel about the kingdom of God. I suggest that we urgently need to battle for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. I suggest that the

Abrahamic people in the 1850s recovered a huge and monumental truth, not only about who God and Jesus are, but about the content of the saving Gospel itself as the Gospel of the Kingdom. Their slogan text was Acts 8:12 —brilliantly so!

Acts 8:12: “When they believed Philip as he preached **the Gospel about the Kingdom** of God and the things concerning Jesus Christ, they were getting baptized, both men and women.”

They preached on this and founded churches, an entire denomination, with this slogan. The verse reflects a common theme of Scripture, i.e. Psalm 105:21: “God made him lord over his house.” Every movement needs a concise, comprehensive encapsulation, a slogan of its intentions. Acts 8:12 used as far as I can see by almost nobody today gave them just what they needed. They were in competition with a system which very vaguely urged people to “believe in Jesus” or even with the King James to “believe **on** Jesus.” But the Gospel being offered to the public was reduced to the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is only a half gospel, and it omitted the basic and primary element of the Gospel as preached by Jesus and Paul, namely the **Gospel about the Kingdom**. “Heaven at death” replaced the Kingdom.

The Bible has its own ways of expressing what is essential and nonnegotiable. For example Paul frames the book of Roman with the phrase “obedience of faith,” in Romans 1 and in Romans 16. There is no true faith without obedience and no obedience without faith. As you know, the whole battle over faith and works since the Reformation under Luther has made the whole subject seem impossibly complicated. I remind you that Luther wrote that the book of Revelation is not a Christian book, and Luther reckoned that the Gospel of John is to be treated as the real spiritual gospel, and the book of James is a mere “epistle of straw.” And yet people flocking to Lutheran churches are blithely unaware of these staggering dogmatic statements of their founder.

John Calvin, who brutally murdered Michael Servetus, the unitarian, reveals his anti-Gospel of the Kingdom of God stand at Acts 1:6. That's where the disciples after six weeks further lecture on the Kingdom of God from the risen Christ — in addition to their 3 1/2 half years training under Jesus and his Gospel of the Kingdom — asked this bright question: “Has the time now come for you **to restore the Kingdom to Israel?**” (God's GREAT THEME!) Of those marvelous words Calvin says “There are more errors in that question than there are words.” And yet Calvin has millions of devoted followers. He promotes the dreadful doctrine of double predestination.

Alert and Alarm! What Is Christianity?

Amos 8:11, 12 reads: “Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread or thirst for water but rather for hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea, and from the north around to the east. They will wander about looking for the **word** of the LORD, but they will not find it.” This reminds us of Jesus' own question: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find the Faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). It reminds me too of the horrifying prediction in **Isaiah 29** that a time will come when “the entire vision will be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate saying, ‘Please read this, and he will say ‘I cannot read.’ And then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying please read this, and he will say “I cannot read.”’”

“Then the Lord said, Because the people draw near with their words and honor me with their lip service [group think], but they remove their hearts from Me, and their reverence for me consists of tradition learned by wrote” (Matt 15:8). The truth of what Amos wrote and Jesus pondered is apparently and urgently relevant to our present time. Use this article to check yourself. Are you clear about what Christianity as taught by Jesus (and the rest of the Bible) really is? The first question to all would-be believers is, “**What is the Gospel** as Jesus preached it to us?” What did Jesus teach us about being saved, gaining immortality, living literally for ever? Is there a greater question than that? Does

that sound like an important issue?! What am I supposed to understand and believe, in order to be a genuine believer in and follower of Jesus?

You might think that following the words, teachings and Gospel of Jesus Christ would be **the obvious basis** for true Christian faith. But leading evangelical scholars say “No, it is not!” Please read and ponder the following amazing quotations from leading evangelicals. Yes, please be suitably shocked, and zealous to change this! We are all commanded by Jesus to be involved in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), teaching as true Christianity the teachings of Jesus, the Christ. Correct?

But now listen to this: **Dr. James Kennedy** of Coral Ridge Ministries (he died in 2007):

“Many people today think that the essence of Christianity is the teachings of Jesus. That is not so. The teachings of Jesus are somewhat secondary to Christianity. If you read the epistles of the Apostle Paul, which make up about half of the New Testament, **you’ll see almost nothing whatsoever said about the teachings of Jesus.** Not one of his parables is mentioned. In fact, throughout the rest of the New Testament there’s little reference to the teachings of Jesus. In the Apostles’ creed, the most universally held Christian creed, there is no reference to the teachings of Jesus or to the example of Jesus. In fact, in recounting Christ’s earthly life, the creed states simply that He was ‘born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and was buried.’ It mentions only two days in Jesus’s life — that of His birth and that of His death.

“Christianity centers not in the teachings of Jesus but in the person of Jesus as the incarnate God who came into the world to take upon himself our guilt and to die in our place.”⁵

This is a huge and pernicious falsehood, since Paul preached exactly the same Gospel of the Kingdom as did Jesus, to all; see for Jesus and Paul and Philip Acts 1:3, 1:6; 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:24-25; 28:23, 31. What do you think of this amazing statement? Would you be taken in by the following?

Dr. Harold O.J. Brown: “Christianity takes its name from its founder, or rather from what he was called, the Christ. Buddhism is also named for its founder. And non-Muslims often call Islam Mohammedanism. But while Buddhism and Islam are based primarily on the teaching of the Buddha and Mohammed, respectively, **Christianity is based primarily on the person of Christ. The Christian faith is not belief in his teaching, but in what is taught about him. The appeal of Protestant liberals to ‘believe as Jesus believed,’ rather than to believe in Jesus, is a dramatic transformation of the fundamental nature of Christianity.”⁶**

That is a colossal lie. You are instructed by this very misleading preacher not to believe in Jesus and not to believe his teaching! Now note the same gigantic falsehood from the very famous C.S. Lewis. Lewis denies Jesus while claiming to follow him! He wrote: “**The Gospels are not ‘the gospel,’ the statement of the Christian belief.**”

Do you grasp what he says here? So then the words of Jesus, according to Lewis, are not the Gospel! This must be the ultimate falsehood, the ultimate deception. So then Jesus has to be rescued from “church”! Remember that the four gospels make up about half of the whole New Testament! They are dedicated to what Jesus taught as the saving Gospel.

Dr. James Dunn observes that the words of Jesus really do not count for some commentators: “**Hurtado** does not think it necessary for Jesus to have thought and spoken of himself in the same terms as his followers thought and spoke of him in the decades subsequent to his crucifixion, in order for the convictions of those followers to be treated as valid by Christians today; though he also notes that most Christians probably think that there was ‘some degree of continuity’ between what Jesus thought of himself and subsequent Christology.”⁷

⁵ D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *The Presence of a Hidden God*, 2008, chapter “How I Know Jesus Is God,” p. 82

⁶ *Heresies*, 1984, p. 13.

⁷ *Did the First Christians Worship Jesus?* p. 93, fn 2.

Has Hurtado read the New Testament?!

Finally to make what I think is a shocking point which should spur us all on to struggle for the faith once and for all delivered:

Are the Gospels Christian? Again Don Samdahl, Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, writes at doctrine.org:

"Most Christian churches spend the majority of their time in the Gospels. I would venture to say that 90% of the churches spend 90% of their time in these four books. While Christians should study all of the Scriptures (Rom. 15.4; 1 Cor. 10.11; 2 Tim. 3.16-17), **the Gospels contain no Christianity.** This may be shocking but it is true. Not one word of Christianity exists in the Gospels. The Gospels are all Jewish. They contain only Judaism — Jewish theology..."

"What we call by convention the Old Testament ends with a prophecy of the coming of Elijah...The Gospels pick up with this prophecy (Luke 1.12-17). What is the significance? We should be alerted to one simple fact: the Gospels are Old Testament. They are as much Old Testament as Genesis, Deuteronomy, or Isaiah. Everything in them is Jewish and pertains to the nation of Israel, the covenant promises, and the coming of the prophesied earthly kingdom of God.

"If John's appearance as Elijah is not sufficient proof the Gospels are Judaism and not Christianity the Scriptures provide additional evidence of this fact. 1. The environment of the Gospels is the Mosaic Law. Jesus ministered under the Mosaic Law as did the Twelve (Matt. 22.34-40; Mark 10.2-9; 17-22; Luke 5.12-14, 17.11-14, 18.18-22). Paul, however, wrote that Christians are not under the Mosaic Law; we are under the administration of Grace (Rom. 6.14). These are two vastly different operating environments..."

"4. No one was known as a Christian inside the borders of Israel during the ministry of Jesus or before the salvation of Paul. Those who believed the Gospel of the Kingdom, that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, were known as followers of the Way (Acts 9.2, 19.9, 23, 22.4, 24.14, 22). They were not Christians..."

"**Nothing in Jewish theology proclaimed a heavenly kingdom** and the Jews had no hope of dying and going to heaven. They certainly had no concept of a kingdom in the hearts of men. Their hope was earthly. The idea of a heavenly kingdom or a kingdom in the hearts of men are but fanciful creations of those who do not know their Bibles. They are projections forced upon the text."

I hope that our audience will be suitably shocked and shaken by these amazing words from a so-called "Dispensationalist" scholar. We have to point out that his very false understanding of the faith could not be more blatant and clear! What has happened in his dogmatic assertions is that **Jesus has been separated from his own Gospel preaching.** Can a greater catastrophe than this be imagined?

Dispensationalism is a fancy and tricky word for getting rid of the parts of the Bible you don't care for or your church does not believe in! The teaching of Jesus can be removed from your attention by just saying that Jesus spoke only to Jews!

You, says this false theory, are not to pay attention to the teachings of Jesus which are for Jews only! But what they don't tell you is that Jesus deliberately spoke first to the house of Israel and later commanded that **the same Kingdom Gospel teachings were to go to the whole world until the end of the age (which is not AD 70!).**

We urge our audience to do whatever they can, as their expression of love for people so dramatically misled and from loyalty to Jesus ("If you love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15), to "contend earnestly for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

At the transfiguration, which was a vision (Matt. 17:9) of the future Kingdom of God on the earth with the resurrected Moses and Elijah seen in a glorified state, the voice of God Himself was heard: "This is My beloved Son; listen to him!" (Mark 9:7).

Paul reflects often on how seriously he took that announcement from God. “If anyone comes to you and does not bring the health-giving teaching of Jesus, he is pompous and deluded” (1 Tim. 6:3-4). So important are the words of Jesus that Paul warned of any system of teaching which interfered with or obstructed the teaching of Jesus as a dangerous menace.

So also John’s protest: 2 John 9: “Anyone who goes too far [in the name of progress] and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.”

Let’s Talk about Covenant

Paul defined his own Christian identity and agenda when he asked us to follow him as he follows Jesus (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul clarified his own Christianity as in opposition to the Law of Moses:

“I [Paul, a Jew and a Christian] am not under the Law” (1 Cor. 9:20).

Evangelicals have been seriously misled when they were told that the Jesus of history merely kept the Law of Moses in the letter. What they were not told often was that Matthew presents Jesus as the **new Moses** bringing the new, fulfilled words of the New Covenant, elsewhere called by Paul the **Torah of Messiah**, the Law of Messiah. This is not just a copy of the Law of Moses in the letter. Jesus promised to fulfill the words of Moses, not just to repeat them.

Thus Moses allowed for divorce in some cases, but Jesus, the New Moses and the prophet like Moses, dismissed those words of Moses in Deut. 24:24 as a temporary concession for “hardness of heart” — now replaced and removed by the original Genesis provision for marriage. You see how Jesus goes back to the beginning.

Jesus is the new Adam — the Adam who was supposed to be but failed and, so the Kingdom of God Gospel is the massive cry of Jesus for restitution and restoration, new reformation, the reformation which never happened in the 16th century.

I know how sadly we were misled in Armstrong days, though I can value the lessons learned in those difficult days. The HWA platform was “Do you want to obey God?” We all nodded and were then directed to the 10 commandments! What we did not grasp were the WORDS of Jesus in Paul where he pulled out all the stops to convince the people that there are TWO Covenants, the **first** and the **second** — the covenant of bondage (Hagar) at Sinai and the New Covenant in the spirit-giving words of Jesus.

Paul explained that there are two covenants, and the first was the Law added 430 years later than Abraham. Paul includes himself as before conversion under that law of bondage: “We were kept under a custodial guard **until** faith came,” but we are now no longer **under** that Torah, the temporary custodian.

There is thus in the New Testament a form of Torah which we are forbidden to believe and obey, and it goes with physical circumcision! “Let me say to every one of you that if you insist on getting circumcised [in the flesh] you will be obliged to keep the **whole law**.” (Gal. 5:3). Ask your friends to define this “whole law” which you must NOT keep!

Hebrews is brilliantly illuminating: “Jesus was the first and original preacher of salvation” (Heb 2:3; Mark 1:1ff.), and “Salvation is given to those who obey Jesus” (5:9). That takes us right back to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

Luke 16:16 (all the 8s) is key: “The Law and prophets **were until John the Baptist**, and from the days of John onwards the Gospel of the Kingdom [i.e. Christianity] has been proclaimed.” No wonder then that Jesus said John is the greatest human being ever to have lived! He marks the beginning of a mighty shift in eras. The shift does not begin with Paul, nor even at the cross! The faith does not *begin* in Acts. The menace of dispensationalism, as we have seen now, threatens Luke 16:16.

Jesus thus gave the words of the New Covenant, i.e. the fulfilled, spiritual words of the Law of Moses, in a brand new, brilliant key. No wonder that the dull water of purification became the

intoxicating wine of the New Covenant. No wonder then the brilliant words of the New Covenant uttered by Jesus, with full approval of God: “This is my Son. Listen to him!”

Why do you think we have 3 corroborating versions of the life and Gospel teaching of Jesus? And then John and his heavy stress on the **words** of Jesus which are spirit and truth (John 6:63) ! The words of the New Covenant are life imparting and lead to immortality in the Kingdom. John 1:1 speaks of the word from the beginning. It was the Gospel-word of the Kingdom which God had in mind from the beginning. “The law, i.e. **in the letter**, was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus.”

Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant, “**entorahed** on better promises.” The Devil’s lie is to push back Jesus and his teaching into the Old Covenant and then present Paul as the founder of Christianity. We must be deliberate and activist to stem this awful tide of error.

And Paul remembered this with his teaching that the Gospel (the word) contains the key to life and immortality. Satan’s attacks are directed to the muddling and confusing of the saving words of the Gospel beginning with Jesus, and Jesus of course based his Gospel of the Kingdom message on the words of Daniel about the Kingdom (2:44; 7:18, 22, 27). Jesus also expanded and expounded the Kingdom Gospel in 22 chapters of **Revelation**, which **Luther pronounced a non-Christian book**. **Calvin wrote no comment on it.**

Listen to Messiah Jesus now: Luke 22:28-30. This is hiding from you in your translation but clearly there in the Greek. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom in the language of **covenant**: “I **covenant** with you twelve as the Father **covenanted** to give me a Kingdom, and you will be seated on twelve thrones to administer the twelve tribes regathered in the Kingdom.”

This is repeated in Revelation 2:26, 27 and Daniel 7:18, 22 27. Back to Jeremiah 27:5: God wants to give the earth to those who please Him.

So Paul: “the promise to Abraham that he would be heir of the world” (Rom. 4:13). “The Gospel was preached ahead of time to Abraham” (Gal. 3:8). **Property, progeny and prosperity.**

Are you ready to receive the gift of God, by the grace of God, of the whole world and all its governments? Please don’t cop out by saying, “If I can just hold the door for 1000 years...” God is more excited about your God-given talents, which He gave you.

Mark 1:1 **is the beginning** of the Gospel as preached **by** Jesus, not just **about** him. To be saved you must believe the Word/Covenant/Gospel about the Kingdom — the Jesuanic covenant (Luke 22:28-30). We must of course believe, too, in the atoning, substitutionary death of Jesus for our sins, and in his resurrection. But we must see all this under the umbrella of the Savior’s passion to be the second Adam, man as God’s vice-regent. This is MAN as God intended us to be — modeled by Jesus!

Are you ready to run the world with Jesus? (1 Cor. 6:2 etc).

Switch on the news, and see if you think we need the Kingdom to come!

William Lane, *Gospel of Mark*, p.10, 11

“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God [8 times in NT, Jesus, Paul and Peter]...And when he came up out of the water. Immediately he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove”

Mark ch. 1:11-14, where Mark presents the Jerusalem ministry and activity of Jesus.

Ch. 15:1-39, which focuses on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Ch. 16:1-8 with its witness “He’s not here. He has risen, as he said.”

Equals Acts 10:36-41: “You know the word which God sent to Israel, preaching the gospel of peace by the Messiah Jesus; he is Lord of all. The Gospel which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. How he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. But God raised him up on the third day.”